

DRAFT MINUTES
LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE OF NVTC
Meeting February 7, 2013

Members Present: Peter Black, Valerie Burton, Joe Caturano, Rev. Gerald Vaiden, Ron Kerns, Helen Adamchak, Tracy Self

Absent: Tony Grimm

Also Present: Tim Simmons, Advocate

The Committee met in the Executive Conference Room of Building One at the Northern Virginia Training Center. Members began gathering shortly before 10:00 AM, and at 10:04 AM, Chair, Peter Black called the meeting to order and opened the public comment period. Peter announced that, in addition to our planned agenda for the day, Dr. Becker and Mary von Witzleben would join the meeting to present the PECS (Picture Exchange Communication System) research project planned to start at NVTC and Dr. Diorio would join to update the Committee on the revised NVTC Instruction 6204, Clients Rights and Freedoms.

In the absence of public participation, the Committee reviewed, and accepted as written, the minutes from December's meeting. The revised agenda for today's meeting was also voted upon and approved by the Committee.

At 10:15 AM, Peter closed the public comment period to which no additional members of the public appeared and asked Committee members for a motion to move into executive session, pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3 711A to hear Critical Incidents, Abuse/Neglect allegations, and Restrictive Behavior Plans. Debra Vought arrived and proceeded to give the Critical Incidents Report, and with Tim Simmons noted one incident substantiated for neglect.

Debra left the meeting following her report, and the Psychologists joined to present Restrictive Behavior Plans. Following the psychology reviews, at 12:05 PM, the Committee moved and voted to exit executive session, each member certifying that they "heard, discussed or considered only public matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened."

Due to an additional engagement, Peter Black left the meeting at 11:30 AM and Valerie Burton continued in the position of Chair.

Because of psychologist Matt Osborne's absence, his report concerning NVTC Instruction 5303, Behavioral Emergency Procedures, Use, Documentation and Review will be reviewed at our March meeting.

During the Committee's lunch break, members discussed two new applicants for membership to the Committee. Both women, Judy Regner and Susan Haenisch, were interviewed by Tony Grimm in December and their applications have been submitted to the HRC for review.

At 12:30 Dr. Becker, Mary von Witzleben, and Mark Diorio joined the meeting for a presentation and discussion of their PECS research project in conjunction with James Madison University as the external review board. Mary briefly described the PECS approach toward functional use of communication for NVTC clients. The research will be focused on six NVTC residents; however, the PECS communication system will be used by many of the residents here at the Center.

Following the PECS presentation, Mark Diorio proceeded to note the few changes made to NVTC Instruction 6204, Clients Rights and Freedoms. He also referred to NVTC Instruction 5706, Video Surveillance and Monitoring System, already read and reviewed by Committee members and in place in the Center entrances.

Dr. Diorio informed members that the NVTC census as of today is 144 residents.

A motion was made and voted upon to accept without objection:

- 1 final behavior plan
- 2 interim behavior plans

One addendum to a behaviorally restrictive program will be brought for further review next month.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracy Self, Recording Secretary

Peter Black, Chairman